

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all the claims now in the application (i.e., claims 1-20) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies granted during the telephone interview of May 1 and July 3, 2007. During those interviews the Examiner suggested that adding a limitation to the claims that the direction of the lace apertures in the body extend perpendicular to the outer surface of the structure, such as, for example, the upper surface of a shoe.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitation that the apertures in the body of the device extend in a direction generally perpendicular to the outer surface of the structure on which the device is mounted. Since, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Garvey and the other references disclose apertures extending parallel to the outer surface of the structure, thus limiting the visibility of the apertures therein, it is submitted that claim 1 distinguishes over the prior art. Garvey does not teach or suggest the structure as presently claimed in claim 1.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

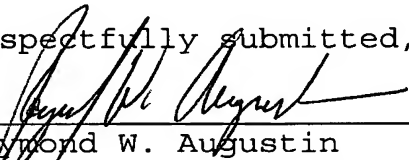
Application No.: 10/540,116

Docket No.: GFRED 3.3-006

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 3, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Raymond W. Augustin
Registration No.: 28,588
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant

LD-447\